

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

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The California Desert Protection Act of 2010 (S. 2921), authored by Senator Dianne Feinstein, would provide a logical update and expansion of the landmark environmental protections offered to the beautiful and biologically important deserts of Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties by the original California Desert Protection Act of 1994. Given Los Angeles County's close proximity to this area, the regional importance of preserving broad wildlife corridors, and the frequent use of these areas by Los Angeles area residents for many forms of outdoor recreation, the Board of Supervisors should be supportive of worthwhile efforts to preserve this region. Senator Feinstein's legislation is therefore worthy of Los Angeles County's enthusiastic endorsement.

As with almost all legislation in Washington D.C., this bill represents a compromise with many different stakeholders—including those who wish to preserve existing off-road vehicle recreation areas maintained by the Bureau of Land Management for continued recreational use, environmentalists, and energy producers. However, in the final analysis, this bill represents a bold step forward for all parties

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RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____

involved. In significant part, S. 2921 would create a 941,000 acre Mojave Trails National Monument and a 134,000 acre Sand to Snow National Monument; designate nearly 350,000 acres of wilderness areas; add 74,000 acres of land to the National Park System; add more than 76 miles of stream to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; streamline the development of well-planned renewable energy resources; strengthen guarantees of sufficient private funding for the clean-up and environmental remediation of obsolete energy projects; and support the development of new technologies to facilitate the construction of underground transmission lines.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the CEO to send a letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the Los Angeles County federal legislative delegation urging the passage of S.2921 (Feinstein) with the strongest possible environmental protections, and instruct the County's legislative advocates in Washington D.C. to pursue the County's position on this bill.

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